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105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 183

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare and publish annually a consumer guide to prescription drug prices.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare and publish annually a consumer guide to prescription drug prices.

- 1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 2       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 3       This Act may be cited as the "Prescription Drug
- 4       Consumer Information Act of 1997".

1   **SEC. 2. PREPARATION OF CONSUMER GUIDE.**

2       The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this  
3   Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall prepare and pub-  
4   lish in accordance with this Act a consumer guide to pre-  
5   scription drug prices (in this Act referred to as the  
6   "consumer guide").

7   **SEC. 3. INFORMATION TO BE CONTAINED IN CONSUMER  
8                                  GUIDE.**

9       The consumer guide shall contain—

10              (1) a list of the prices of all prescription drugs  
11       in an easy-to-understand format organized by thera-  
12       peutic category; and

13              (2) such other related information as the Sec-  
14       retary determines will assist—

15                  (A) consumers in reducing expenses for  
16       prescription drugs; and

17                  (B) health care providers in determining  
18       the cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs as  
19       compared to other prescription drugs and to  
20       other therapies.

21   **SEC. 4. PUBLICATION.**

22       The Secretary shall publish the first consumer guide  
23   within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act  
24   and shall publish an updated version of the consumer  
25   guide annually thereafter. In addition, the Secretary may  
26   publish periodically bulletins which describe changes in the

1 prices of prescription drugs between the dates of the an-  
2 nual publication of the consumer guide.

3 **SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER GUIDE.**

4 The Secretary shall—

5 (1) provide the consumer guide to public librar-  
6 ies;

7 (2) provide for the dissemination of the  
8 consumer guide widely to consumers of prescription  
9 drugs and health care providers;

10 (3) encourage organizations representing senior  
11 citizens, health care consumers, and health care pro-  
12 fessionals to make the consumer guide available to  
13 the members of those organizations; and

14 (4) make the consumer guide available through  
15 a computer network which is easily accessible to the  
16 general public, as well as in print.

17 **SEC. 6. FEES FOR CONSUMER GUIDE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
19 (b), the Secretary shall charge a reasonable fee for provid-  
20 ing the consumer guide which may not exceed an amount  
21 reasonably related to the costs of publishing and distribut-  
22 ing the consumer guide.

23 (b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not charge a  
24 fee for providing the consumer guide to public libraries.



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1        (c) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees collected in exchange  
2 for providing the consumer guide shall be available to the  
3 Secretary to cover the costs of publishing and distributing  
4 the consumer guide.

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